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United States Senate,

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE.

JAMES H. DAVIS, CLERK.

June 21, 1924.

PERSONAL.

Captain J. F. Jaudon,
Miami, Florida.

Dear Captain:

Yours of the 18th has been received.

I know Dr. Robert Ranson quite well, and have had correspondence and interviews with him, particularly with reference to peat in Florida, extending back for years.

In the Act making appropriation for investigating lignite, I had the word "peat" inserted, ^{and appropriation increased} so as to include peat. The Department has been making some studies of peat, and they cooperated with Canadian authorities, and I was advised some months ago that it was expected that a report would shortly be ready.

I have repeatedly called their attention to the situation in Florida, and reminded them that the main purpose for amending the Act so as to include peat was to have studies made in Florida.

I have spoken to them about Dr. Ranson from time to time, and they know him quite well, and have numerous communications from him. They have told me that if they could avail themselves of his services they would do so. He formerly lived in St. Augustine, and was a strong supporter of Catts in his race against me. For some reason or other he appeared to take a dislike to me--probably because I have been unable to get him on the Government pay roll. Confidentially, they have his measure there to their own satisfaction, and they regard him as theoretical, and they apparently consider they know all he knows or can ever know. I am telling you this, but think it best not to quote me to him, because he would likely misconstrue it or misunderstand it. Any man who would go off for Catts, in my judgment is not amenable to reason.

I have a letter from him and will write him direct. What I am saying is for your information, and you can simply report to him that I said I would write him.

I hope to see you along about September, if it
is possible for me to get down there--as I now expect.

Sincerely yours,

Wm. E. Fletcher.

Aug. 23^v 1923 Secy. of Ark. note to me -
I have directed the Bureau of Mines
to undertake an investigation of peat."

W.E.F.